

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT  
(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)



10/521921

Applicant's or agent's file reference H10601WO-DJL/GMD/TMA	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/PEA416)	
International application No. PCT/GB 03/01928	International filing date (day/month/year) 02.05.2003	Priority date (day/month/year) 20.07.2002
International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC E03C1/02		
Applicant A & J GUMMERS LIMITED et al.		

- This International preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
- This REPORT consists of a total of 5 sheets, including this cover sheet.
  - ☒ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of 1 sheets.

- This report contains Indications relating to the following items:
  - I ☒ Basis of the opinion
  - II ☐ Priority
  - III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
  - IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
  - V ☒ Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
  - VI ☐ Certain documents cited
  - VII ☐ Certain defects in the international application
  - VIII ☐ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 19.02.2004	Date of completion of this report 28.09.2004
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**INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY  
EXAMINATION REPORT**

International application No. **PCT/GB 03/01928**

**I. Basis of the report**

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

**Description, Pages**

1-6 as originally filed

**Claims, Numbers**

1-4 received on 17.09.2004 with letter of 16.09.2004

**Drawings, Sheets**

1/2-2/2 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).  
☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).  
☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.  
☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.  
☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.  
☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.  
☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:  
☐ the claims, Nos.:  
☐ the drawings, sheets:

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5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)).

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

**V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement**

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	1-4
	No: Claims	
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	2-4
	No: Claims	1
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-4
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

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EXAMINATION REPORT - SEPARATE SHEET**

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1. Reference is made to the following documents:

**D1: DE 195 20 905 C**

**Referring to item V**

2. The present application does not meet the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 does not involve an inventive step in the sense of Article 33 (3) PCT.

2.1 Independent claim 1

2.1.1 Document **D1**, which is considered to represent the most relevant state of the art, discloses a fluid connection assembly (see fig. 2 in document D1) for establishing a connection with a fluid supply pipe extending from a rear face of a panel to a front face of the panel, the assembly comprising a connection member (4) engageable with the fluid supply pipe (fig. 2) at the front of the panel; and means for connection (column 2, line 68 to column 3, line 7) of an outlet member to the connection member (4); the assembly further comprising a support member (3) adapted to be fixed to the panel at the front face thereof, **from which the subject-matter of independent claim 1 differs in that** the assembly further comprises a compression fitting operable from the front of the panel and comprising a sealing element deformable to establish a seal between the fluid supply pipe and the connection member.

2.1.2 The **technical problem** to be solved by the present application may therefore be regarded as to simply improve the water tightness of the connection

2.1.3 The **technical problem posed is solved** by using a sealing element. This kind of solution is considered to be a straight forward action for a skilled person working with plumbing installations. Simply to add a sealing element into a pipe connection does not involve an inventive step. The sealing element would be also "operable from the front of the panel" as can be clearly seen in fig. 1 of document D1.

2.2 The subject-matter of claim 2 is new and involves an inventive step in the sense of Article 33 (3) PCT. The cited prior art does not propose to have a "screw threaded engagement" between the connection member and the support member. The skilled person would not modify the assembly according to document D1 such that the screw threaded engagement could be achieved.

2.2 ~~Claims 3 and 4~~ - as far as dependent on claim 2 - would as such also meet the requirements of the PCT with respect to the novelty and inventive step.

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**Remarks**

3. The following amendment should have been made:
  - 3.1 In the present form dependent claim 2 is not clear. The feature a "sealing element" is defined again. It is not clear if this sealing element should be the same element as already defined in independent claim 1.

**ART 34 AMDT 10/521921****DT01 Rec'd PCT/PTC 20 JAN 2005**

(AIMS)

1. A fluid connection assembly for establishing a connection with a fluid supply pipe (112, 212) extending from a rear face of a panel (113, 213) to a front face of the panel, the assembly comprising a connection member (126, 226) engagable with the fluid supply pipe at the front of the panel; and means for connection of an outlet member to the connection member (126, 226), characterised by a support member (116, 216) adapted to be fixed to the panel (113, 213) at the front face thereof, and a compression fitting operable from the front of the panel and comprising a sealing element (134, 234) deformable to establish a seal between the fluid supply pipe (112, 212) and the connection member (126, 226).
2. A fluid connection assembly according to claim 1, further characterised in that the connection member (226) has screw threaded engagement with the support member (216), and the compression fitting includes a sealing element (234) deformable between the support member and the connection member to establish a seal between the fluid supply pipe (212) and the connection member (226).
3. A fluid connection assembly according to claim 2, further characterised in that the connection member (226) is adapted to have a shower head or hose connected to it.
4. A fluid connection assembly according to claim 2 or claim 3, further characterised by a cover member, adapted to engage with the assembly and to conceal the assembly.

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